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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the different ways of forming negative sentences in the Chaamling language, an indigenous language spoken in the eastern, hilly districts of Nepal. It explains that negation, or negativization, in the Chaamling language is done with the help of affixation. In imperative sentences, the prefix *mi-* is added to the verb, which is followed by the suffix *-daa/dyo*. These suffixes *-daa/dyo* could be the person markers third person singular *-da* and third person singular *-dyo*. An example is *imsaa* (sleep) *mi- m-daa* (do not sleep), and *tyeti ringaa* (tell a story) *tyeti mi- rindaa* (do not tell a story). In declarative sentences, the prefix *paa-* acts as a negative marker. In the second person, the suffix *-ne* is used. Sometimes, if the person is not mentioned, both the prefix *paa-* and the suffix *-ne* are used to refer to the rejection of doing a task. The prefixes *paa-* and *mi-* exchange places according to the aspect. In sentences with the verb to be, *paaainaa* is used to make them negative. The marker is number-free. (SM)

Negation in the Chaamling Language

- Vishnu S Rai

Chaamling is one of the indigenous languages of Nepal. It's spoken in the eastern hilly districts, Khotang and Udaypur by the people who call them Chaamling. The language shows high degree of Nepalisation and certainly faces the danger of extinction. The present paper tries to see the different ways of forming negative sentences in the language. The paper is a part of the research, "Descriptive Grammar of Chaamling" which is in its early stage and therefore does not claim any final conclusion.

Negation or negativization in the Chaamling language is done with the help of affixation. In imperative sentences the prefix, *-mi* is added to the verb which is followed by the suffix *daa/dyo-*. These suffixes *daa/dyo-* could be the person markers 3rd person singular *da-* and 3rd person singular *dyo-*. Example: *imsaa* (Sleep) *mi- m-daa* (Don't sleep) and *Tyeti ringaa* (tell a story) *Tyeti mi- rindaa* (Don't tell a story).

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Tyodaa khaataa
(there go)
Go there. | Tyodaa mi-khaa-daa
(there neg- go-suf.)
Don't go there. |
| 2. odaa baanaa
(here come)
Come here. | odaa me- ben- daa
(here neg-come- suf.)
Don't come here. |
| 3. roN mu
(rice cook)
Cook rice. | roN mi-m- dyo
(rice neg- cook- suf.)
Don't cook rice. |
| 4. uko chyo
(it eat)
Eat it. | uko mi- chyaa- dyo
(it neg- eat- suf.)
Don't eat it. |

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In declarative sentences, the prefix *paa-* acts as a negative marker as shown in the following sentences.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 5. kaa khim khaatuiN
(I home go)
I go home. | ka khim paa-khaanui
(I home neg- go)
I don't go home. |
| 6. khu khim khaate
(he home goes)
He goes home. | khu khim paa- khaataane
(he home neg- goes)
He doesn't go home. |
| 7. kaa roN chein | kaa ron paa- chein |

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| (I rice eat) | (I rice neg- eat) |
| I eat rice. | I don't eat rice. |
-
- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 8. kaa rein | ka paa-ryaanui |
| (I laugh) | (I neg- laugh) |
| I laugh. | I don't laugh. |
-
- | | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| 9. khu reN | khu paa- ryaanei |
| (he laughs) | (he neg- laughs) |
| He laughs. | He doesn't laugh. |

But with the second person the suffix, *-ne* is used.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 10. khaanaa khim taakhaate | khaanaa khim taakhaataa -ne |
| (you home go) | (you home go -neg) |
| You go home. | You don't go home. |
-
- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 11. khaanaa TaareN | khaanaa Taaryaa -ne |
| (you laugh) | (you laugh -neg) |
| You laugh. | You don't laugh. |

Sometimes, if the person is not mentioned, both the prefix, *paa-* and the suffix *-ne* is used to refer to the rejection of doing a work.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 12. cham pa-mu-ne | 13. roN paa-mu-ne |
| (sing neg-do-neg) | (rice neg-do-neg) |
| Won't sing. | Won't cook rice. |

The prefixes *paa-* and *mi-* exchange their place according to the aspects. For example, look at the example no 7 in which the suffix *paa-* is used for negation for simple present tense whereas below for the present perfect the suffix *mi-* has been used.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 14. kaa roN chaangaasui | kaa roN mi- chaangaasui |
| (I rice eat -have) | (I rice neg- eat- have) |
| I have eaten rice. | I haven't eaten rice. |

The same is true with the progressive aspect.

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 15. kaa roN chaasaaiN | kaa roN mi-chaasaain |
| (I rice eat-am) | (I rice neg-eat-am) |
| I am eating rice. | I'm not eating rice. |

In sentences with be verb, *paainaa* is used to make them negative. The marker is number free, that is with all number, singular, dual and plural the same marker is used.

Khotang najik paainaa

Khotang near is not

Khotang is not near.

tiko pjupaa -chi haaNaa paainaa

those cow -pl mine are not

Those cows are not mine.

Note: the transliteration of the sounds used in this paper is

a = as in English word 'cut'

aa = as in English word 'bath'

ch = palatal affricate

T = voiceless dental

t = voiceless alveolar stop as in English word 'tea'

N = mark for nasalization